

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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Planning and Land Use Committee Members  
City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street, Room 410  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Support for Proposed Northeast Hillside Interim Control Ordinance (CF-04-1880)**

Hon. Chairperson Reyes and Members:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy fully supports the City's efforts to develop and institute a Northeast Hillside Interim Control Ordinance. The remaining open space and habitat blocks in the hill systems located east of the Los Angeles River support abundant wildlife and represent an invaluable visual and recreational resource to the City. The only way to ensure that these resources are, in part, retained is to institute a new planning mechanism that systematically identifies them and presents an equitable strategy to protect them. We urge the City Counsel to move forward with the Study Phase of this effort with a maximum of public involvement.

The need for planning standards in areas with high concentrations of small lots with limited existing infrastructure, common substandard street widths, and unstable soils is in the best interest of the public. Projects in other portions of the Conservancy's jurisdiction with high concentrations of substandard lots pose numerous problems because of a lack of standards that address the unique constraints of such sites.

We urge the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) to retain all of the components currently considered in the study including Mount Washington, Glassell Park, Monterey Hills, Mount Olympus, Paradise Hill, Rose Hill, and El Sereno areas. Time is of the essence and a segmented study would not yield the quality, unified result of a combined study effort. We urge the City to incorporate a report, entitled, *Mount Olympus/Flattop Area Acquisition Feasibility Report*, that was prepared by People for Parks via a grant from the Conservancy.

Please direct any questions and future correspondence to Paul Edelman, Deputy Director for Natural Resources and Planning to the above address and by phone at (310) 589-3200 ext. 128

Sincerely,

JONATHAN M. ZASLOFF  
Acting Chairperson

